REMARKS

Claims 1-23 are pending in the present application. Claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 10-15, 17, 19, 20 and 23 have been amended herewith. Reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested.

Applicants would initially like to thank the Examiner for taking the time to conduct a telephonic interview with Applicants' representative on 08/11/2004. While no agreement was reached, Applicants' representative pointed out particularities with respect to the various aging functions such as those recited in Claims 2, 4 and 6 that appear to be novel with respect to the cited reference.

Applicants are submitting herewith a replacement sheet that includes Figures 6, 7, 8, and 9. As to Figure 6, Applicants corrected a typographical error in block 602. As to Figure 7, a flow chart corresponding to the specification description of Figure 7 at page 17, line 25 – page 18, line 17 is included on this replacement sheet as a new Figure 7. Originally filed Figure 7 has been renumbered Figure 8 (with the reference numerals changed accordingly), and originally filed Figure 8 has been renumbered Figure 9 (with the reference numerals changed accordingly), in this same replacement sheet to correspond with the specification descriptions of Figures 8 and 9 at page 18, line 18 – page 20, line 2 of the present specification

I.   35 U.S.C. § 102, Anticipation

The Examiner rejected Claims 1-23 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by Tentij et al (US Pat. No. 6,513,129). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

With respect to Claim 1, such claim has been amended to further distinguish the present invention from the teachings of the cited reference. In particular, such claim has been amended to recite the claimed feature of "responsive to detecting a situation, selecting an aging function from a plurality of aging functions based on the detected situation", which advantageously allows for providing a plurality of different aging functions, and a particular one of the aging functions is selected based upon the type of situation that is detected. This advantageously provides an ability to choose a particular type of aging function depending on the particular situation at hand to provide greater

overall system flexibility for supporting a wide range of situation types. Specification support for such amendment is shown to be at page 16, line 13-15 and page 19, line 18 – page 20, line 14. The cited reference does not teach a plurality of aging functions, or the selection of an aging function based upon the type of detected situation, as claimed in amended Claim 1. Therefore, amended Claim 1 is shown to not be anticipated by the cited reference.

Applicants initially traverse the rejection of Claims 2-9 for similar reasons to those given above with respect to Claim 1 (of which Claims 2-9 depend upon).

Further with respect to Claim 2, such claim has been amended to clarify the claimed decay function. The cited reference does not teach such a decay function, but rather merely teaches a thresholding technique where the number of occurrences of an alarm within a sliding time window are recorded, and if the required number of alarms are received within such time window, an alert is generated (Col. 14, lines 7-12). Thus, amended Claim 2 is further shown to not be anticipated by the cited reference.

Further with respect to Claim 4, such claim has been amended to clarify the claimed increasing time function. The cited reference does not teach such an increasing time function, but rather merely teaches a thresholding technique where the number of occurrences of an alarm within a sliding time window are recorded, and if the required number of alarms are received within such time window, an alert is generated (Col. 14, lines 7-12). Thus, amended Claim 4 is further shown to not be anticipated by the cited reference.

Further with respect to Claim 6, such claim has been amended to clarify the claimed decreasing function. The cited reference does not teach such a decreasing function, but rather merely teaches a thresholding technique where the number of occurrences of an alarm within a sliding time window are recorded, and if the required number of alarms are received within such time window, an alert is generated (Col. 14, lines 7-12). Thus, amended Claim 6 is further shown to not be anticipated by the cited reference.

Further with respect to Claim 7, such claim has been amended to recite that the aging function is a combination of a linear and exponential function. Specification support for such amendment is shown to be at page 13, lines 2-9. The cited reference

does not teach such an aging function, and thus amended Claim 7 is further shown to not be anticipated by the cited reference.

With respect to Claim 10, such claim has been amended to incorporate features of originally filed Claim 11, and further amended to recite how such events impact the triggering of the situation. In particular, Claim 10 recites that the situation for which an aging function is being applied to includes a set of events, and a threshold at which the situation is triggered is based upon a correlation between the set of events. This claimed feature advantageously provides for aggregating a plurality of events together to define the situation such that the trigger for the situation can vary depending on a correlation between the events, such as the severity for the particular events involved (Specification page 11, lines 9-19). While the cited reference alludes to aggregating incidents at Col. 4, lines 52-67, there is no teaching of varying a threshold at which a situation occurs depending on a correlation between the underlying events. Thus, amended Claim 10 is shown to not be anticipated by the cited reference.

Applicants initially traverse the rejection of Claims 11 and 12 for reasons given above regarding Claim 10 (of which Claims 11 and 12 depend upon).

Applicants further traverse the rejection of Claim 11 for similar reasons to those given above with respect to amended Claim 1.

With respect to Claims 13 and 14, such claims have been amended similarly to Claim 1, and Applicants traverse the rejection of Claims 13 and 14 for similar reasons to those given above with respect to Claim 1.

With respect to Claims 15-22, Applicants traverse for similar reasons to those given above regarding Claim 14 (of which Claims 15-22 depend upon).

Further with respect to Claim 15, Applicants traverse for further reasons given above with respect to Claim 2.

Further with respect to Claim 17, Applicants traverse for further reasons given above with respect to Claim 4.

Further with respect to Claim 19, Applicants traverse for further reasons given above with respect to Claim 6.

Further with respect to Claim 20, Applicants traverse for further reasons given above with respect to Claim 7.

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With respect to Claim 23, such claim has been amended similarly to Claim 1, and Applicants traverse the rejection of Claim 23 for similar reasons to those given above with respect to Claim 1.
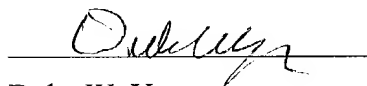
Therefore, the rejection of Claims 1-23 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 has been overcome.

II.   Conclusion

It is respectfully urged that the subject application is patentable over the cited reference and is now in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number if in the opinion of the Examiner such a telephone conference would expedite or aid the prosecution and examination of this application.

DATE: _____8/31/04_____

Respectfully submitted,

_____Duke Yee_____

Duke W. Yee
Reg. No. 34,285
Wayne P. Bailey
Reg. No. 34,289
Yee & Associates, P.C.
P.O. Box 802333
Dallas, TX 75380
(972) 367-2001
Attorneys for Applicants